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The Highacres Collegian

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HIGHACRES READING FESTIVAL HELD

On April 27, eighteen students participated in the Fifteenth Annual Dramatic Reading Festival. For the first time in its history, the festivities were held in the new campus library.

Silver trophies were presented to the winners: Peggy Troup, Prose, "Room 406" edited by William Huney; Patricia Mullen, Prose, "JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL" by Richard Bach; Dale Walck, Prose, "Diary of Adam" by Mark Twain; and Christopher Amaker, Drama, "Hamlet" by William Shakespeare.

Other contestants in the program were: Suzanne Rodriguez, Poetry, "Between Night and Morning" by Kahlil Gibran; Jean Hudak, Prose, "Sixteen" by Maureen Daly; Anthony Seo, Prose, "The War Prayer" by Mark Twain; Monica Bauer, Drama, "Our Town" by Thornton Wilder; Mary Frances Postupack, Poetry, "Friendship and Giving" by Kahlil Gibran; Carol Ann Sonich, Poetry, "The Courtship of Miles Standish" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; Paul Stadnik, Drama, "The American Dream" by Edward Albee; Marietta Sist, Poetry, "Even This Will Pass Away" by

Theodore Tilton; Marian Payne, Poetry, "The Creation" by James W. Johnson; Ava Faltz, Drama, "Bad Seed" by Maxwell Anderson; Brenda Bilek, Poetry, "Univac to Univac" by Louis B. Salmon; Kathi Salkind, Poetry, "Anabelle Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe; Dennis Robbins, Drama, "Barrets of Wimpole Street" by Rusolf Besier; and Lynne Horner, Poetry, "Awakening" by Lynne Horner.

Gene Collins, Fine Arts Council, acting as chairman of the judges, presented the awards. Other judges were Miss Helen Dossenbach, faculty West Hazleton High School; Miss Nancy Martzen, Hazleton Area School District; Dr. Michael Santulli, faculty Hazleton Campus; Miss Gladys Schwartz, Great Book Society; and Miss Letitia Valleri, Secretary, Board of Governors, Hazleton Art League.

Welcoming remarks were bestowed upon the audience by Professor Andrew Kafka, faculty advisor, and Wayne Funk, president of Belles-Lettres Society. For the first time, a female chairman, Miss Elizabeth DeSilva, presided over the program.

Journalist Speaks on Crime in America

by Tricia Fisher

Is pot a smokescreen to divert police attention from the real drug problem? Is organized crime strictly for Mafiosas? Will crime replace baseball in the great American dream? These and many other questions were explored by Leslie Waller, syndicated journalist and best-selling author, in a fast-moving and informative lecture delivered April in C-1.

Mr. Waller described the present situation in American society today. Waller drew on his years of experience as a crime reporter in Chicago to detail the history and present-day function of organized crime. He started with the Mafia and detailed its beginnings in the fourteenth century; however, he emphasized that most organized crime is no longer run by the Italian and Sicilian factions. He did, in fact, term the mob a "perfect United Nations of organized crime."

The problem of organized crime got its foothold in 1920 with the beginning of Prohibition as ethnic groups banded together coast-to-coast to solve the difficult problem of transportation and distribution of illegal materials. The mob's power grew steadily during the war years, until today it is termed the "fourth largest conglomerate in the United States."

This fantastic revenue is accomplished through a number of operations, some that are legal and some that are not. This has caused an image change for organized crime. Today, as Mr. Waller pointed out, "adding machines and ball point pens are the real weapons of organized crime."

The mob's favorite illegal traffic is in drugs. The mob deals primarily in heroin and cocaine (two large markup items) and not in marijuana which is a low markup item and is non-addictive. This has led many narcotics investigators to believe that the pot controversy is being used as a decoy to divert police energy and money away from organized crime. Aside from protecting the mob's big

investments, Mr. Waller pointed out that this controversy also induces disrespect for the law, widens the generation gap, and introduces a counter culture where contact with real organized crime is inevitable.

Mr. Waller also pointed to organized crime in politics. Firstly, he stated, organized crime induces corruption in all levels of law enforcement. It further enables mob-linked individuals to capture and control the political strings in local communities; this leads to further corruption and to more organized crime. This spread of crime leaps into the lives of the everyday Joe Normal. He may work for a mob-controlled company, belong to a mob-controlled union, get drawn into the organization itself, or buy mob-supplied goods. Twenty percent of the adult population is in some way connected with the mob, and usually they realize they are dealing with the syndicate. Mr. Waller explained that this is creating an "open wound in our morality."

Mr. Waller outlined a few steps to be taken to cure this "moral pollution." He advised the citizenry to inform themselves on the problem, to stop patronizing the goods and services supplied by the mob, and to use to their best advantage the only real tool against organized crime—their vote.

Mr. Waller ended his lecture with a half-hour question and answer period that generated much interest. One of the attending faculty members expressed her appreciation of what she termed Mr. Waller's "professionalism" in handling all questions. She described him as a "well-versed lecturer without the sensationalism often accompanying journalists."

The lecture was attended by approximately thirty people from both the campus and the local communities. When asked to comment on the attendance, Mr. Fogelson termed it "typical." He expressed concern over the low attendance and hoped that the next event, A NIGHT OF SILENT FILMS, would be better attended.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION

Behind the scenes of a campus newspaper are the campus paper supporters, who lend a hand or advice to the staff. The COLLEGIAN would like to thank the following people for their assistance: Mr. Biggers, Mr. Bobby, Mark Colman and Prof. Kafka. A special thanks to Mrs. Deidre Jago for help above and beyond the call of duty.

LIBRARY HOURS

The Library is now open from 8 to 5 and 6:30 to 10 Monday through Friday. The seminar rooms and the Highacres room are available for group meetings by appointment. Both floors are now open and at the disposal of the entire campus.

PSU students fight fire

Students from Penn State's Hazleton Campus provided a public service to the area by offering their services on April 26 to combat a raging fire that destroyed sixty acres of woodland between Interstate 81 and Humbolt.

The fire, spread by gusty winds, was reportedly spotted by a State Police helicopter.

State Police immediately notified the Hazleton Fire station at the Hazleton Municipal Airport which alerted five crews from the State Bureau of Forestry.

This series of events set the stage for the student volunteers, twenty-six in number, to help extinguish this hazard. They received rough fire-fighting instructions from forest inspector Andrew McLovich before reaching the fire scene.

We wish to commend those students for their aid to the community. Students of this caliber give the Penn State University a better public image and lead the way for better community relations. More actions of the type are needed when warranted. Surely actions such as these help the students, faculty and Penn State become (in the eyes of the general public) much more than a haven for "Radical hippie subversives," but can produce, instead, an understanding of students as adults, and see the result of the education of these adults as a meaningful and worthy experience.

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